

News from the City of Gardner

A newsletter published for the residents of the City of Gardner
City Hall • 120 E. Main St. • Gardner, KS 66030 • 856-0939

November-December 2005

2005 Citizen Survey Results



The 2005 Citizen Survey results are in! The ETC Institute conducted Gardner's fourth citizen survey in July of 2005, interviewing almost 800 households via phone or mail surveys. Gardner is a charter member of the survey program and has conducted a survey every two years since 1999. The survey responses are a valuable tool to determine how well the City is doing, as well as identify improvement opportunities. The City Council relies on this information when making key decisions for the community.

The choices on the survey were 'very dissatisfied', 'dissatisfied', 'neutral', 'satisfied', and 'very satisfied'. The percentages that are shown here are just the approval ratings of the 'somewhat' and 'very satisfied' categories. Gardner's results from 2005 are compared with the metro average made up from approximately 20 cities.



Public Safety Department shows an overall 79% approval rating for its service to the residents and businesses of Gardner, just above the metro average for this service. The Department uses a public safety concept and community policing policies to perform duties, which emphasis a presence in neighborhoods and retail areas, this approach received better than average survey results. Both categories of visibility of law enforcement in neighborhoods and retail, received higher than average approval ratings for Gardner compared to other metro communities.

Public Safety	*Approval Rating —Percent Satisfied			
	2001	2003	2005	Metro Avg.
Police, Fire and Ambulance Service	86%	88%	79%	78%
Quality of Police Protection	85%	87%	82%	81%
Quality of Fire Protection	88%	87%	80%	89%
Quality of Ambulance Service	81%	86%	71%	NA
Public Safety Response Time	84%	86%	77%	80%
Visibility of Police in Neighborhoods	81%	82%	79%	69%
City's Efforts to Prevent Crime	78%	81%	72%	70%
Enforcement of Local Traffic Laws	80%	78%	70%	68%
Visibility of Police in Retail Areas	75%	75%	66%	58%
Quality of Animal Control	54%	61%	57%	59%

In the 2005 survey, one of the key areas of concern for Public Safety, among those surveyed, was response times to calls. The City maintains response times well within national guidelines, however with growth and a desire to maintain adequate response times in 2006, Gardner will open its second Public Safety station. It will be located along 183rd between Moonlight and Center Street. This location will provide enhanced service to residents south of 56 Hwy. A new fire truck has recently been purchased for the new facility. The City Council is currently working to find land for a third public safety building that will open in 2009, it will primarily service the areas north 175th and west of Center Street.



Parks and Recreation — On June 7, 2005, voters approved a 1/2 cent sales tax increase to fund the development of a new community park and the expansion

Parks & Recreation Services	* Approval Rating — Percent Satisfied			
	2001	2003	2005	Metro Avg
Parks and Recreation	66%	74%	72%	71%
Maintenance of City Parks	76%	80%	80%	76%
Ease of Registering for Programs	67%	72%	60%	62%
Walking/Biking Trails in the City	59%	70%	62%	53%
Number of City Parks	68%	65%	66%	67%
City's Youth Athletic Programs	60%	64%	53%	NA
City's Adult Athletic Programs	54%	60%	44%	NA
Outdoor Athletic Fields	59%	57%	47%	62%
The City Swimming Pool	61%	54%	47%	56%

of the City swimming pool. This issue was passed with over a 70% approval rate. In the 2003 Survey, residents rated outdoor athletic fields and the city swimming pool as top priorities. In the 2005 Survey, these two items again received the lowest scores for satisfactions in parks and recreation area. The scores from the citizen survey and the citizen developed Park Master Plan helped the Council in determining the need to ask for a special sales tax to pay for these new facilities. The Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on preparing the plans for the new community park and aquatics facility. Work to complete the pool will begin next summer, as well as work on



The Mayor's Message



Dear Residents,

Gardner has so much to be thankful for as we approach this holiday season. It is gratifying to see the blend of new residents and long time citizens working together to keep Gardner a vibrant, thriving and caring community. Just as holidays lights will be sparkling, our community pride and spirit continues to shine. We are truly blessed!

In this last newsletter of 2005, we will reflect on our accomplishments as a community:

This year has been a busy one for the City with the expansion of North Center Street, completion of the new Stone Creek Park, construction of the East Lift Station, building of Substation No. 3, completion of Moonlight Commons and New Century Plaza, and work getting underway on the Wal-Mart site. Everyplace we turn something is going on and improvements are being made.

The City Council has been reviewing the results of our recent citizen survey that is being shared with you in this edition of the newsletter and are pleased to see that much of what you are concerned about, we are working diligently on as part of our capital improvements program or as part of the goal to provide quality service to you.

Two of the areas that previous surveys identified as a priority were outdoor athletic fields and the City swimming pool. It is exciting to know that we have already begun to work providing more athletic fields as well as an expanded pool. Your approval of the 1/2 cent sales tax in June made this possible. We have also been working to provide better traffic flow in the community from big projects like Moonlight Road to smaller projects like Lincoln Lane. They will all have an impact on how we get from one place to other in the community. The City has also been working hard to ensure that its water plant expansion project is online for next summer's demand.

We are pleased that our communication to you, through the City Newsletter, is helpful. The City is also working on a new website which will enhance our 24 hour connection between you and the City. The site will have expanded information, be easier to navigate, and has potential to provide more online services in the future.

While the City continues to work on the areas which you've identified as a priority in the survey, we hope you'll get out and enjoy Gardner's many wonderful activities this holiday season. Please join us at Boo Bash on October 31st at the Johnson County Fair Green Building; it's a safe and fun way to celebrate Halloween. Don't forget to mark your calendar to come to Cornerstone Park on November 28th at 7 p.m. to kick-off the Holiday season with me at the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting and the opening of Santa's Workshop.

Wishing you a peaceful and joyous New Year.

Carol Lehman

Mayor

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Capital Projects Updates



City Acquires New Fire Engine

The Public Safety Department has taken delivery of a 2005 International Fire Truck which was ordered early this year. This apparatus is fully equipped with the latest technology and equipment to serve the citizens in case of fire. This will be a welcomed addition to the three fire engines we currently have.

North Center Street

The final details are being completed on the North Center Street expansion project which began in fall 2004. In mid-October the final layer of asphalt was applied to the new surface and sod installation will be completed along the roadway and walking/biking trail. Cost for construction of this project was just over \$4 million, including the cost for the street, storm drainage, walking/biking trail, street lighting and landscaping. The Johnson County CARS program was used to help fund costs for this project.



East Lift Station

This project removes the old lift station and replaces it with a lift station that has the capacity requirements for the growth on the eastern side of Gardner. The project is essentially complete just off of Woodson Lane. Several minor follow up items are being completed by the contractor. Grading at the entrance will be completed and the area will be seeded. The cost for construction of this project is estimated at \$1.3 million.

New Century Business Center

The new shopping center at Moonlight and Lincoln Lane is now open. The contractor is working on the completion of the improvements to east Lincoln Lane. Improvements will be made to the railroad crossing as part of the project. The project will upgrade the street from an open ditch to curb and gutter. It is projected to be complete by mid-November. The City's share of the project is approximately \$81,000, with the rest of the cost being paid by the developer.

Lincoln Lane West of Moonlight Road

Lincoln Lane, directly behind Price Chopper, is scheduled to be improved next year. Currently the City is working to obtain the necessary easements for the project, which is to be bid after the first of the year. Construction on the project should begin in spring 2006. This project will complete storm water work that must be complete before the construction to expand Moonlight Road is begun. The cost of this project is estimated at \$1.9 million connecting Lincoln Lane through to Cedar Street on the west side of Moonlight Plaza.

Grand Street Sewer

The installation of a new wastewater line from the intersection of Grand Street and Oak Street to the Bull Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is complete. The new line is being installed to accommodate the growth in the southwest portion of Gardner. The contractor has final grading of the area to complete, as well as seeding.

Northside Lift Station

In November the City will bid the project for a new north lift station and force main to be located near the corner of 167th Street and North Center Street. Work on the project is anticipated to begin in January, with completion in late fall 2006. The estimated cost to construct is \$4.7 million and will serve a majority of Gardner.

Hillsdale Water Plant Expansion Project

The Hillsdale Water Plant will be expanded from a 2.0 million gallon to 4 million gallons a day in 2006. The project is being done as a design build to reduce cost and deliver the product in time for peak demand in 2006. The maximum guaranteed cost to complete the project is \$7.359 million.

The design portion of the expansion is in progress and materials are on order. The extra capacity should be available for use by early summer 2006.

Street Rehabilitation Programs for 2005 Complete

All street resurfacing and overlay has been completed for 2005. The following streets were resurfaced in 2005.

- Pinewood—Moonlight to Redwood
- Spruce—Colleen to Westoff
- E. Madison—White to Moonlight
- Park—Center to Mulberry, including off street parking
- McCaffree—Parma Way to Cul-de-Sac
- Mulberry—Main to Park
- Elm—Main to Alley



The City also replaced concrete curbs, handicap ramps and driveway approaches.

Waverly Sidewalk

Work to install a new sidewalk along Waverly Road near the elementary and high school is underway. The project should be completed during the first part of November.

Substation 3 and Transmission Line Update

Construction has resumed to extend the transmission lines up Moonlight Road and down 167th Street. The contractor had been called to the Gulf Coast after the hurricanes for four weeks. Work on the substation is also underway and powering the new lines and substation are set for the first quarter of 2006. The substation and transmission lines will improve electrical service to existing customers in northwest Gardner and will provide power for the new development in the area.

Automated Bank Drafting for Utility Bills

The City's Utility Department is pleased to offer Gardner's Citizens automated bank drafting. In addition to online payments, this is a more convenient option for customers to pay their utility bill. The transaction will be automatically debited from the customer's bank account on their scheduled due date. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the bank will move the payment to the closest business day. Customers utilizing the bank draft option will continue to receive a bill in the mail for their records.

To set up automated bank drafting, fill out the information below and attach a voided check or deposit slip. They can be mailed to City Hall or placed in one of the various drop boxes around town.



Name: _____ Phone # _____

Service Address: _____

I, _____, agree that my utility bill for the above service address will be directly paid out of my bank account. This transaction will be debited from my account on the scheduled due date every month. If the due date falls on a weekend or holiday, the bank will automatically move the payment to the closest business day. **A voided deposit slip or check must be attached.**

Bank Name: _____

Address: _____

Account No. _____ Routing No. _____

City Account No: _____

Signature: _____

Interested in Serving Your Community?

The Mayor is looking for persons interested in serving on the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Both boards serve three year terms.

- The Planning Commission meets on the second and fourth Mondays to review development proposals for compliance with the Community Development Plan and the Code of Gardner, as well as make recommendations to the City Council for long range plans, zonings, special and conditional uses of properties, and regulations governing subdivisions.
- The Board of Zoning Appeals meets on an as need basis. It is a quasi-judicial board. The BOZA considers and makes decisions regarding appeals of the City's actions in administering the building or zoning regulations, City staff's interpretations of the City codes, variances from the specific requirements of the zoning regulations, and exceptions that are specifically authorized by the zoning regulations.



If you are interested in serving on either the Planning Commission or Board of Zoning appeals, please submit your name and resume to:

City of Gardner
Attn: Mayor Lehman
120 E. Main Street
Gardner, KS 66030

If you have questions regarding this positions please feel free to contact Melissa Mundt , Assistant City Administrator at 913-856-0939 or via email at mmundt@gardnerkansas.com.

2005 Citizen Survey Results, cont.

Parks and Recreation (Continued from page 1)

the community park. Both facilities will open in summer 2007.

Respondents to the 2005 survey continue to express above average satisfaction with maintenance of parks, which was also set as a priority in the Parks Master Plan. Additionally, the Master Plan also discusses the continued expansion of walking/biking trails. The 2005 Citizen survey rated this the highest priority are for Parks and Recreation. The City is identifying additional sites for walking/biking trails. This October the new trail along North Center Street will open connecting to the trail along Madison. Future plans include development of trails in the Kill Creek basin from 151st to 175th.

Public Works	* Approval Rating — Percent Satisfied			
	2001	2003	2005	Metro Avg
Maintenance of streets/buildings/facilities	65%	68%	68%	57%
Overall cleanliness of streets/public areas	77%	85%	80%	70%
Maintenance of traffic signals/street signs	82%	80%	71%	75%
Mowing along City streets/public areas	73%	73%	75%	69%
Snow removal on major City streets	65%	74%	80%	70%
Maintenance of City Streets	61%	69%	73%	52%
Overall flow of traffic in the City	61%	60%	43%	NA
City water, sewer & electric utilities	55%	60%	58%	62%

Public Works services overall rate well above average for the metro area. The City rates near the top for overall cleanliness of City streets and public areas and snow removal. Traffic flow in the City ranked as the highest concern of survey respondents. The City has been taking steps to

improve traffic flow, including the expansion of North Center Street. Additionally, engineering work continues on Moonlight Road expansion. This project is anticipated to begin in 2008. In the meantime, the City has purchased a new street signal that will be installed later this year and will provide a designated left turn for Moonlight Road onto Main Street. Similar signalization will be installed at Center Street and Main Street. Both of these changes will significantly improve traffic flow in the community.

In 1999, the City of Gardner's water, sewer and electric utilities received the lowest satisfaction rating among all cities in the metropolitan Kansas City area at 48%. By 2003 it has increased overall by 12% and is now ranked average compared to other cities in the Kansas City area. To learn more about scores for utilities, read the November Utility News or visit www.gardnerkansas.com for more details.

Codes Enforcement

The City rates near average with its code enforcement activities. The City Council works with staff to promote clean and vibrant neighborhoods

Community Development, Codes	* Approval Rating — Percent Satisfied			
	2001	2003	2005	Metro Avg
Enforcing maint. of business property	72%	69%	60%	60%
Enforcing sign regulations	71%	68%	58%	61%
Enforcing the clean up of litter and debris	59%	64%	56%	52%
Enforcing the mowing and trimming of lawns	59%	59%	51%	55%
Enforcing the maint. of residential property	51%	55%	46%	50%

through reviewing codes and ordinances related to property as necessary. A priority for this year will be updating and enforcement of a stricter property maintenance code.

Communication

Regarding efforts to keep residents informed, the City of Gardner rates near the top. Overall satisfaction improved significantly 59% in 2003

City Communication	* Approval Rating — Percent Satisfied			
	2001	2003	2005	Metro Avg
Availability of info about City programs	66%	68%	68%	60%
City efforts to keep informed / local issues	61%	59%	67%	57%
Level of public involvement in local decisions	47%	51%	50%	41%

to 67% in 2005. The City has placed an emphasis on increasing communication since 2003. Improvements have been made to paper 'communication' tools, as well as the website. Currently work is underway on an even more informative website; one that will provide more information and services 24 hours a day.

Community Calendar

Boo Bash

Monday, Oct. 31

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Johnson County Fairgrounds
Green Building

Gardner Museum

November: A Tribute to Veterans

December: A Victorian Christmas

Hours: 1 pm—4 pm

Monday, Tuesday, Saturday
& Sunday
(913) 856-4447

Friday, Nov. 11

City Offices Closed for
Veteran's Day



Home for the Holidays In Downtown Gardner

November 18 - 10 am - 8 pm

November 19 - 9 am - 7 pm

Special activities include;
Caroling by school choirs,
special drawings, food, fun &
activities in every store!

Thursday & Friday, Nov. 24 & 25

City Offices Closed for
Thanksgiving Holiday

Monday, Nov. 28

Annual Tree Lighting Dinner



Senior Building 4:30-7:00 pm
Chili, Soups, Pies - Open to
the Public - Sponsored by
Beta Sigma Phi
and

Mayor's Tree Lighting

Cornerstone Park - 7:00 pm

Friday & Monday, Dec. 23 & 26

City Offices Closed for
Christmas Holiday

Adopt a Family for Christmas?

Contact the Multi-Service
Center at 856-7405 for details

Utility Rates to Increase Beginning in January



With the adoption of the 2006 Budget, the City Council determined that existing fees for water, wastewater, and electric are not adequate to support the increasing cost of operations. Costs have been increasing for maintenance materials and fuel over the last couple of years. The following increases will go into effect in January:

- Electric will increase by 5% per KW, with no increase in the monthly service charge.
- Water will increase by 3% for both service charge and consumption charge. This increase is offset by a 5% reduction in 2005, so 2006 cost will still be less than 2004.
- Wastewater will increase by 5% for both usage and service charges.

The table below shows what impact the increases will have on a typical monthly bill of a residential customer.

Typical Residential User		2005	2006
Water	8000 gallons	38.27	39.40
Wastewater	8000 gallons	44.79	47.00
Electric	925 KW	<u>85.74</u>	<u>89.72</u>
Total		168.80	176.12

This is a \$7.32 increase for this monthly bill, or 4.3% and will vary depending on use.

Health Fair on November 5th, Open to Public

The Gardner Athena Club is sponsoring a Health Fair on November 5 from 9 am-1 pm at the Sr. Citizen's Building, 128 E. Park. Many free services are being offered.

Schedule of Public Meetings (120 E. Main Street)

City Council Regular Meetings

1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

City Council Work Session

2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.
4th Monday, when needed

Planning Commission Regular Meetings

2nd Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Gardner Municipal Court

2nd Tuesday of the month, the Wednesday following the 2nd Tuesday and the 4th Wednesday of the month
(All court sessions begin at 6:00 p.m.)

Website Address

www.gardnerkansas.com

Visit the City's website at www.gardnerkansas.com

If you would like to receive City Council Meeting Agendas via email send your request to jhackney@gardnerkansas.com

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